



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND TRAUMA SYSTEM
PO Box 47853 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7853

WASHINGTON STATE PARAMEDIC RECERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
(RETAIN FOR FUTURE REFERENCE)

Paramedics may complete recertification educational requirements by completing either the *Continuing Medical Education (CME)* method or through a Department of Health (DOH) and county Medical Program Director (MPD) approved *Ongoing Training and Evaluation Program (OTEP)* method, which includes approved knowledge and skills evaluations.

Educational Requirements:

- 1. In each certification period, complete and document training in the following *required* topics:**
 - a. Infectious disease prevention (annual OSHA/WSHA–approved, agency-required, infectious disease training meets this requirement)
 - b. Trauma
 - c. Other pediatric topics
 - d. Additional education courses totaling 150 hours. Individuals obtaining education through the CME method must complete the number of educational course hours indicated. Due to the competency-based nature of OTEP, fewer class hours may be needed to complete this requirement than when using the CME method.

Skills Maintenance Requirements:

1. First Certification Period:

- a. IV Starts: *
 - i. First year of certification (may not be averaged):
 1. CME method - 36 successful IV starts
 2. OTEP method – 12 successful IV starts
 - ii. Second and third years of certification (may be averaged over the two years):
 1. CME method – each year, 36 successful IV starts
 2. OTEP method – each year, 12 successful IV starts
- b. Demonstrate intraosseous infusion proficiency annually
- c. Endotracheal Intubations: **
 - i. First Year of certification (4 must be performed on humans and may not be averaged)
 1. CME method - 12 successful endotracheal intubations)
 2. OTEP method – 4 successful endotracheal intubations
 - ii. Second and third years of certification (4 each year must be performed on humans and may be averaged over the 2 years)
 1. CME method – each year, 12 successful endotracheal intubations
 2. OTEP method – each year, 4 successful endotracheal intubations
- d. Demonstrate pediatric airway management proficiency

2. Later Certification Periods:

- a. IV starts – demonstrate proficiency annually
- b. Demonstrated intraosseous infusion proficiency annually
- c. Endotracheal Intubations (2 each year must be performed on humans and may be averaged over the 3 years)
 - i. CME - 4 successful endotracheal intubations
 - ii. OTEP - 2 successful endotracheal intubations
- d. Demonstrate pediatric airway management proficiency

Examination and Certification Recommendation Requirements:

1. CME Method

- a. Successfully complete practical skills evaluations required by the MPD to determine ongoing competence.
- b. Pass the state *written* examination within six months of recertification. Three attempts are allowed.
- c. Obtain written recommendation for recertification from the county MPD and submit the completed and signed application to the DOH.

2. OTEP Method

- a. Successful completion of the OTEP method fulfills the requirement of the DOH written and practical skills examinations.
- b. Obtain written recommendation for recertification from the county MPD and submit the completed and signed application to the DOH.

Description of selected terms used:

- CPR includes foreign body airway obstruction and the use of airway adjuncts appropriate to the level of certification, for adults, children and infants.
- Other Pediatric Topics: This includes anatomy and physiology, and medical problems including special needs patients.
- "IV starts": Proficiency in intravenous catheterization performed on sick, injured, or preoperative adult and pediatric patients. With written authorization of the MPD, IV starts may be performed on artificial training aids.
- Intraosseous infusion: Proficiency in intraosseous line placement in pediatric patients.
- Endotracheal intubation: Proficiency includes the verification of proper tube placement and continued placement of the endotracheal tube in the trachea through procedures identified in county MPD protocols.
- Proficiency: Ability to demonstrate and perform all aspects a skill properly, demonstrated to the satisfaction of the MPD or delegate.
- Pediatric airway: Proficiency in pediatric airway management.

(Please keep all recertification documents for four years after each certification)

*If you have completed a certification period as an IV, IV/Airway, ILS or ILS/Airway technician, you do not need to meet this requirement during your first certification period, however the requirements for later certification periods must be met.

** If you have completed a certification period as an Airway, IV/Airway, ILS/Airway technician, you do not need to meet this requirement during your first certification period, however the requirements for later certification periods must be met.